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Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 25 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the six Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan), I have the honour to transmit the attached statements of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization, adopted in Minsk on 17 July 2017:

- On the joint measures to ensure information security (see annex I);
- On the inadmissibility of desecration of the memory of the Second World War soldiers-liberators (see annex II).

I would appreciate it if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 93 and 66 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**

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Annex I to the letter dated 25 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on joint measures to ensure information security

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization are concerned by the increase in the use of information and communications technologies for destructive politico-military, terrorist and other criminal purposes that threaten international security and stability.

National and collective security is being threatened by massive computer attacks against various facilities, including critical infrastructure, by the use of modern information and communications technologies for the promotion of racial, ethnic and religious intolerance, extremist ideologies and terrorist organizations, including for the enlistment of recruits, and by destructive psychological pressure designed to distort the moral values of young people.

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization emphasize that the transboundary nature of contemporary challenges and threats requires increased collective efforts and the adoption of balanced measures in this area.

The growing role of the information sphere in the life of individuals, society and the State increases the urgency of ensuring proper information security for the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and makes it especially important to strengthen cooperation within the Organization, particularly concerning the security of critical infrastructures and countering the use of information and communications technologies for terrorist purposes. The need for this was reaffirmed by the global computer attacks that recently affected more than 100 countries around the world.

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization call for conflict prevention in the information sphere and avoidance of the start of an information arms race.

In this context, particular significance is attached to facilitating the development and swift adoption, under the aegis of the United Nations, of universal rules, norms and principles for responsible behaviour in cyberspace. The importance is stressed of developing a universal international legal instrument, based on the principles and norms of international law, to counter the use of information and communications technologies for unlawful purposes.

However, in the context of ongoing instability and inconsistencies in the information space, we believe that efforts are needed to enhance the effectiveness of the work of international and regional organizations in the field of international information security.

The results of cooperation among States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in the area of information security have, on the whole, demonstrated that it is advisable to strengthen practical cooperation in key areas in order to ensure security in the use of information and communications technologies, including in the coordinated collective response to computer incidents.

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization intend to continue working proactively to improve information security arrangements within the Organization, which includes interaction among special units of the security and internal affairs (police) agencies to prevent modern information technology crimes as part of the "Proksi" operation, the work of the coordination centre advisory board of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on computer incident response, and the activities of the information policy and information security working group reporting to the Organization's Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils.

Annex II to the letter dated 25 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the inadmissibility of desecrating the memory of Second World War liberator soldiers

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, pay tribute to the memory of the tens of millions of our compatriots who died on the fronts of the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War. Remembering the feat accomplished by those who defeated the "brown plague" 72 years ago, we underscore that this victory was achieved only through the combined efforts of many peoples in order that they themselves could preserve the freedoms and opportunities to determine their own path of development.

We categorically reject and strongly condemn the concerted efforts under way to rewrite history and distort and revise the outcome of the Second World War, as well as attempts to glorify Nazism and militant nationalism. In that context, it is with concern that we must note the ongoing campaign to desecrate the memory of those who, at the cost of enormous loss of life, liberated European countries from Nazi aggression and occupation during the Second World War.

The dangers and bloody consequences of the hate-filled ideology of fascism are known to our compatriots from historical experience. We share the pain and indignation felt by the citizens of our countries at the reports of the steps being taken, including officially and at the parliamentary and other levels, to dismantle memorials that commemorate erstwhile brothers-in-arms and demonstrate their self-sacrifice and heroism in the fight against fascism. We must not forget that current generations exist thanks to the Great Victory and that they reap its benefits.

Such actions are a direction violation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/179, entitled "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", which was sponsored by all States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

Equally unacceptable, blasphemous and cynical are initiatives to accord the status of national heroes to those who acted against the anti-Hitler coalition or collaborated with Nazis, committing the gravest crimes during the Second World War.

In this regard, we reaffirm that the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization categorically reject and strongly condemn the deliberate desecration of our common history.

Noting the contribution of the peoples of the world to the fight against Nazism, we call on all countries to hold sacred the memory of those who perished and to keep their war graves well maintained.